

Simsbury Chiropractic and Wellness
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Statement of Cheryl Vincent, DC

On behalf of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association

Before the Committee on Public Health

HB 6266 - An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture

February 6, 2009

Good Morning;

My name is Dr, Cheryl Vincent. I have maintained a full time practice in Simsbury for the past 16 years and am currently serving as Recording Secretary of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association. I am writing to register my disagreement with HB 6266, An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture.

I hold a license to practice Chiropractic in the State of Connecticut, which is considered a primary portal of entry profession. The Doctor of Chiropractic degree is in the same category as MD, Pharm.D, OD and DDS- a first professional degree. I have a BS in Health/Fitness, a four year degree encompassing the basic sciences as well as exercise physiology and life sciences. My DC degree is a 10 semester professional training program, again encompassing all basic sciences, medical and chiropractic courses and training. I have completed and passed all State and National Board exams necessary to practice in this state. While in Chiropractic college, I concurrently studied Acupuncture, spending an additional 150 hours in training. I have been practicing both Chiropractic and Acupuncture for a total of 18 years. I have also completed another 150 hours of post-graduate study in Acupuncture.

The scope of practice of Chiropractic as defined by the State of Connecticut, Ch. 372, Sec. 20-28 allows for the chiropractic physician to "treat the human body by manual, mechanical, electrical or natural methods, including acupuncture". Doctors of Chiropractic who also chose to practice acupuncture are fully trained and versed in clean needle technique as well as the safe and proper disposal and care of acupuncture

equipment/needles. Because of our scope of practice, a separate license for acupuncture alone is unnecessary.

All types of conditions are treated, not just musculoskeletal problems. As in any primary portal, a comprehensive history is taken, all systems are reviewed and a diagnosis is made before treatment is undertaken. Often, but not always, chiropractic and acupuncture are both used to treat the patient. Frequently, one modality or the other is used alone.

It is for these reasons that I disagree with the bill being proposed. It is my professional belief that with the training, degree and license I hold, I should be able to use the title "Acupuncturist" if I so desire.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you should have any questions regarding this subject, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Vincent, DC